

March 13, 2020

Dear Deerfield Families,

This afternoon, **Governor Tony Evers issued an executive order mandating the closing of Wisconsin schools starting at 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 18 and reopening on Monday, April 6.** Please know that this situation continues to evolve, almost hourly, as decisions are made regarding public health and safety. Most importantly, we want to stress the importance of viewing accurate, factual information by visiting the [Public Health of Madison and Dane County](#), the [WI Department of Health Services](#) and [Center for Disease Control](#) websites.

There are currently no suspected or confirmed cases in our schools. Public Health Madison and Dane County will notify us if there is a case in our schools.

Student School Days

Students will report to school next Monday (March 16), Tuesday (March 17) and Wednesday (March 18). This will allow staff time to prepare students for the extended closure before and after our scheduled spring break, and will allow families additional time to make arrangements for childcare during this extended closure.

Continuation of Learning During the Closure

We will be providing students and parents information next week related to our continuation of learning plans for all grade levels and subject areas. A majority of our students are well versed in online learning through our use of Canvas and one-to-one technology at many grade levels. We are way ahead of the curve in our ability to provide continued education online to our older students as we have been doing this for some time, however, we understand that not all students will have access to technology and/or internet at home. We will take these factors into consideration as we plan for this extended closure.

Non-Essential Events and Activities

During the school closure, our school buildings will be closed to all community events and activities, including facility use reservations, as well as high school spring sports practices, scrimmages and games.

Fitness Center Access

The Fitness Center will be closed to the community from March 14-April 5. This includes all Bridges fitness classes. Students will be able to use the Fitness Center during student hours next Monday and Tuesday from 3:00-6:00pm and on Wednesday from 3:00-5:00pm. The Fitness Center will be closed to students starting at 5:00pm March 18 through April 5.

Family Travel

This is a reminder of the information I shared yesterday. We know that families may have planned upcoming travel during spring break. Below is information for personal consideration for individuals and families:

- Based on advice from the CDC and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Public Health Madison and Dane County is recommending that people postpone or cancel nonessential travel to areas with COVID-19. This includes both [international travel](#) and [domestic travel](#) to places with widespread illness. This information is updated by the CDC regularly. At this time, domestically, the states where community transmission has been designated are California, Washington and New York.
- If you travel to these areas, Public Health recommends a **14-day self-quarantine upon your return**. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has more information about [how to self-quarantine](#).

General Health and Well Being

Transmission of COVID-19 and other influenza viruses can happen from a variety of sources. Below are general strategies to help prevent the spread of disease.

- **Anyone who is sick should stay home.** Don't go to work or school, and don't run errands.
- **Monitor your symptoms and call your doctor.** If you have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your doctor or the Coronavirus Hotline for Dane County at 608-720-5300. **Do not call 911.**
- **Avoid visiting hospitals, long term care facilities, or nursing homes.** If you must go, stay at least six feet from people whenever possible.
- **Practice social distancing.** Shop less often, consider doctor's virtual visits, avoid handshakes, spread out at work or in public areas.
- **Continue to follow everyday prevention measures.** Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands. Avoid touching your face, cover your cough or sneeze, clean and disinfect surfaces.
- **Students should not be sent to school with a mask.** Masks should be worn by those who are ill to avoid getting others sick not by those who are well as a protective measure. Students who are ill will be sent home.

- **If you experience any of the symptoms for Coronavirus call your doctor and self-quarantine:**
 - **May appear 2-14 days after exposure**
 - **Fever**
 - **Cough**
 - **Shortness of breath**

Information is changing quickly and our District is in frequent contact with health officials to receive the most recent updates. Please check your emails, the district website and the district Facebook page regularly.

We understand that this extended closure can be very difficult for families. Please reach out to your building principal or guidance counselor if there are specific needs that you and your family may face during this time. We will be working with local and county agencies to provide resources to families as needed. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding of this evolving situation.

Deerfield is a great community for our kids to learn and grow. Together, with some patience and a little humor, we will get through this challenge.

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Jensen
District Administrator